

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently amended) ~~Foams composed of A~~  
foam comprising a water-absorbing basic polymers, poly-  
mer obtainable by

(I) foaming a crosslinkable aqueous mixture  
including

(a) at least one basic polymer whose  
basic groups have optionally been neutralized,

(b) at least one crosslinker,

(c) at least one surfactant,

(d) optionally at least one solubiliz-  
er,

(e) optionally thickeners, foam stabil-  
izers, fillers, fibers ~~and/or~~ , cell nucleators, and  
mixtures thereof and

(f) optionally particulate water-ab-  
sorbing acidic polymers,

by dissolving a gas which is inert toward  
free radicals in the crosslinkable aqueous mixture  
under a pressure from 2 to 400 bar and subsequently  
decompressing the crosslinkable aqueous mixture to  
atmospheric or by dispersing fine bubbles of a gas  
which is inert toward free radicals, and

(II) crosslinking the foamed mixture to form  
a hydrogel foam and if applicable adjusting ~~the~~ a water  
content of the polymer foam to 1-60% by weight.

2. (Currently amended) ~~Foams as claimed in~~  
The foam of claim 1, wherefor wherein the basic ~~poly-~~  
~~mers used are~~ polymer comprises polymers containing  
vinylamine units, polymers containing vinylguanidine  
units, polymers containing dialkylaminoalkyl(meth)-  
acrylamide units, polyethyleneimines, ethylenimine-  
grafted polyamidoamines and , polydiallyldimethyl-  
ammonium chlorides, or a mixture thereof.

3. (Currently amended) ~~Foams as claimed in~~  
The foam of claim 1 or 2, wherefor wherein the basic  
~~polymers used are~~ polymer comprises polymers containing  
vinylamine units, polyvinylguanidines and , polyethyl-  
eneimines, or a mixture thereof.

4. (Currently amended) ~~Foams as claimed in~~  
The foam of claim 1, wherefor wherein the basic ~~poly-~~  
~~mers used are~~ polymer comprises polyvinylamines and/or  
up to 10-100% hydrolyzed poly-N-vinylformamides.

5. (Currently amended) ~~Foams as claimed in~~  
~~any~~ The foam of claims claim 1 to 4, whose surface has  
been postcrosslinked.

6. (Currently amended) ~~Foams as claimed in~~  
~~any~~ A foam of claims claim 1 to 5, wherein the water-  
absorbing basic polymers additionally include finely  
divided water-absorbing acidic polymers, the polymer  
mixture including from 10 to 90% by weight of water-  
absorbing acidic polymers.

7. (Currently amended) ~~Foams as claimed in~~  
any A foam of ~~claims~~ claim 1 to 6, wherein the water-  
absorbing acidic polymers are crosslinked acrylic acids  
having a particle diameter from 10 to 2000  $\mu\text{m}$ .

8. (Currently amended) A process for pro-  
ducing foams ~~composed of~~ comprising a water-absorbing  
basic ~~polymers~~ polymer, which comprises

(I) foaming a crosslinkable aqueous mixture  
including

(a) at least one basic polymer whose  
basic groups have optionally been neutralized,

(b) at least one crosslinker,

(c) at least one surfactant,

(d) optionally at least one solubiliz-  
er,

(e) optionally thickeners, foam stabil-  
izers, fillers, fibers and/or, cell nucleators, and  
mixtures thereof, and

(f) optionally particulate water-ab-  
sorbing acidic polymers.

by dissolving a gas which is inert toward free radicals  
in the crosslinkable aqueous mixture under a pressure  
from 2 to 400 bar and subsequently decompressing the  
crosslinkable aqueous mixture to atmospheric or by  
dispersing fine bubbles of a gas which is inert toward  
free radicals, and

(II) crosslinking the foamed mixture to form  
a hydrogel foam and if applicable adjusting ~~the~~ a water  
content of the polymer foam to 1-60% by weight.

9. (Currently amended) A The process ~~as~~  
~~claimed in~~ of claim 8~~7~~ wherein from 0.05 to 20 parts by  
weight of an acidic water-absorbing polymer having a  
degree of neutralization from 0 to 75 mol% are used per  
part by weight of a basic polymer.

10. (Currently amended) A The process ~~as~~  
~~claimed in~~ of claim 8 ~~or 9~~~~7~~ wherein the crosslinkable  
aqueous mixture includes from 0.1 to 30% by weight of a  
hydrocarbon.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (New) A hygiene article for absorbing  
body fluids comprising a foam of claim 1.

13. (New) A dressing material for covering  
wounds comprising a foam of claim 1.

14. (New) A sealing material comprising a  
foam of claim 1.

15. (New) A packaging material comprising a  
foam of claim 1.

16. (New) A soil improver comprising a foam  
of claim 1.

17. (New) A soil substitute comprising a  
foam of claim 1.

18. (New) A method of dewatering sludges comprising contacting the sludge with a foam of claim 1.

19. (New) A method of absorbing aqueous acidic wastes comprising contacting the acidic waste with a foam of claim 1.

20. (New) A method of thickening waterborne paints comprising contacting a paint with a foam of claim 1.

21. (New) A method of dewatering an oil or a hydrocarbon comprising contacting the oil or hydrocarbon with a foam of claim 1.